ചക്കരയ്ക്ക ചെത്തുന്നതിനു" അനുവാദം കൊടുക്കുന്നതും ഈ വ്യവസായത്തെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള മറ്റൊരു മാർഗ്ഗമാണ്.

Motion put and carried.

Motions Nos. 2—6.

As the following motions were not moved they were considered withdrawn.

2. Mr. Joseph Pettah.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,547 for Office Establishment by Re. 1.*"

3. Mr. K. P. Vallon.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,216 for Preventive Force by Re. 1.*"

4. Mr. K. P. Vallon.—"*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,216 for Preventive Force by Re. 1.*"

5. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—"*To reduee the allotment Rs. 1,01,684 by Re. 1.*"

6. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—"*To reduce the allotment Rs. 1,01,685 for Excise Total by Re. 1.*"

Demand minus Re. 1 was then put and carried.

5. 6—Excise—Cranganur—Rs. 1,858.

Mr. M. P. Cherain.—I rise to move for the grant of Rs. 1,858 under VI Excise—Cranganur. I request that the House be pleased to grant the same.

Demand put and carried.

6. 9—Cutsoms—Rs. 3,416.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 3,416 under 9 Customs. I request the House will be pleased to grant the same.

Demand put and carried.

7. 10—Forests—Rs. 2,22,540.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 2,22,540 under X—'Forests'. In view of the emphasis laid by the Hon'ble Members on the other side of the House during the general Budget discussion on the necessity for well-defined policies in respect of the activities of the Government, it behoves me to place before the House a brief outline of the policy that guides the management of the Department entrusted to my charge, and the principles on which that policy is based. Such an attempt will, I feel sure, be of mutual advantage to this House as well as to me. While the House will be able to know exactly what I stand for, I shall have the benefit of a well-defined and approved policy and programme, re-shaped and re-adjusted, if need be by the helpful advice and criticism of the House to guide me in my work. Scope for misunderstandings to which, I believe, much of the criticisms

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generally made against the Department are due, will be considerably minimised also.

Scientific Forestry itself is but a comparatively young empirical science in the course of development, and, as such it is no wonder that its fundamental principles should be somewhat obscure to the lay public. At the same time, popular appreciation and support of the fundamental principles of Forestry are essential factors in the efficient management of the forests.

Some of these principles I shall now briefly touch upon. It is, of course, a truism to say that the subject of scientific Forestry is to secure the maximum of benefits derivable from forests for the public good. It is not its object to retain forests on land which could be utilised for better purposes, unless their presence is essential for the well-being of man, such as, for regulating water-supply, preventing erosion from hillsides, serving as shelter-belts against winds and storms, and supplying grazing grounds. This was the guiding principle followed in the dis-afforestation of considerable extent of forest land suitable for food-crops cultivation lately effected in the different Taluks of the State. Then, again, the forests have to meet some of the every-day requirements of the local population in the shape of timber, fuel, bamboos, and other useful forest produce. Next comes the revenue-yielding aspect, by the sale of surplus yield, which in practical politics, is the most important function, and it is, therefore, to this aspect that primary attention has to be devoted. Now, State Forests have to be considered as a national capital asset, belonging not only to the present generation but to posterity as well, and no single generation has the right to encroach on the capital, but may only enjoy the interest that it can yield. The annual interest in this case is represented by the increment that the forest crop puts on in a year by growth. Hence to find out what we are entitled to take from our forests every year, an inventory of the whole stock has to be taken and the quantity presented by the annual growth ascertained. This is the object of preparing what is termed in technical parlance a "working plan". The working plan, then, prescribes how to regulate the fellings of each year to yield the permissible quantity. Nor is this all. The improvement of the capital is another purpose of the working plan. This has to be done by devising ways and means of bringing on to the ground reserved as forest the maximum number of trees that can stand in an area, introducing better and more valuable species, increasing the rate of tree-growth by suitable treatment, and so forth. It is also the business of the Working Plan Officer, to ascertain the local requirements in the matter of forests products and prescribe measures for their satisfactory and continuous supply. For all these, a

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clear-cut programme of work is fixed up in the working plan. It will thus be clear that the preparation of scientific working plans is the basis of systematic forest management. Though this fact has been realised long ago and working plans got prepared for some portions of the forests, such existing plans have either become obsolete or require revision. An up-to-date and comprehensive set of working plans has, therefore, to be got prepared for the whole of our forests. This is the first step in our programme and I may state here that a tentative programme of work in this direction extending over a period of 15 years has been prepared and work has already been started.

So far, an annual revenue of Rs. 5 or 6 lakhs used to be the maximum limit of expectation. Without statistics that complete up-to-date working plans alone could furnish, we are practically groping in the dark. It will not be a merely utopian dream if by systematic intensive working we aim, in years to come, at a normal annual revenue of something like Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs instead of the present maximum of 5 or 6. A little explanation will reveal the practical nature of the proposition. The present area of our reserved forests is about 580 sq. miles. Leaving 80 sq. miles for further disafforestation in the future, we may take 500 sq. miles as the ultimate area of the State forests. Deducting 40 per cent out of this as rocky ground or inaccessible areas, 300 sq. miles may be taken as the area on which forest crops may be grown with advantage. Assuming that it will take 100 years for a seed to develop into a tree of exploitable dimensions, if we completely remove the stock on 3 sq. miles every year taking care to re-plant the cleared area in the same year, by the time the last plot of 3 sq. miles is cleared, the trees planted in the first plot will be ready for the axe, and thus we can get a perpetual annual yield represented by the stock standing on 3 sq. miles. It may be mentioned in passing that actual working is not done by taking compact blocks on geometrical patterns, but I am here only explaining the principle. Now, what will be the probable value of the stock standing on 3 sq. miles or 1920 acres? Each acre can easily hold at least 50 trees, hundred years' hold. Supposing that each such tree will yield 3 candies of timber, and each candy can fetch a value of Rs. 10, the final crop on an acre will be worth Rs. 1,500. On this basis the stock on 3 sq. miles will give us Rs. 28.8 lakhs. All the figures are advisedly under-estimated. For the present, no doubt, this is only an ideal, but what I wish to point out is that it is not an impracticable ideal. But it has to be realised by years of systematic plodding. Extensive and systematic afforestation is, however, an important item in our programme. A definite plan of work in this direction will be prepared and work

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undertaken accordingly. I must state here that the work of afforestation was not being neglected in the past, but in the then state of the development of the science, the work was rather costly, and had, therefore, necessarily to be on a restricted scale. With improved and natuarl methods now in vogue, the cost has come down appreciably, and it is hoped to be able to undertake re-generation work on a larger scale in the future.

I may submit that such an ambitious scheme of intensive and extensive forest work is amply justified by the peculiarly advantageous position in which we are placed. Most of our forest area is more or less compact and comparatively easily accessible, the longest distance from any part of the forest to the market being only between 50 and 60 miles and it being possible to get to any accessible portion in a day. Nature has endowed the country with climatic and soil conditions particularly favourable for the growth of a rich and luxuriant forest growth. With the facilities of transport afforded by the Railway and a fine developing Harbour at our very doors, the prospects of disposing of our surplus stock to good advantage are bright, indeed. If we fail to make the best of this situation, it shall be our own fault. Enlightened public opinion in support of such a forward policy is an essential factor in its successful adoption. It is here that I would beseech the valuable co-operation of my Hon'ble friends, especially, on the other side of the House. An intelligent layman who is familiar with the first principles of the subject and who makes a careful study of the existing conditions, will be able to help the Government with practical advice and to dispel the wrong notions about the Department from the minds of the public, and also to correct abuses if, and when, they exist.

Having thus endeavoured to explain in general terms the work before the Department, I shall now briefly refer to the Budget for the ensuing year. In the present uncertain and depressed conditions of the timber market, it has not been deemed advisable to budget for the normal revenue, which has been kept down more or less to the level of the revised estimate of this year. The estimate of expenditure for 1109 is, however, in excess of the current year's by about Rs. 41,000. A perusal of the accounts given under 'Forests' in the printed edition of the preliminary Budget will show that the whole of this increase is under 'A—Conservancy and Works', for timber extraction from Parambikulam forests. This increased expenditure is to be accounted for by the fact that the bulk of the revenue of the current year has been realised principally by the sale of old stock collected in previous years, while next

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year's revenue has to be made up by the sale of stock to be freshly collected, for which the increased expenditure is required. I am glad to state that I expect to be able during the year to clear practically the whole of the old stock from the Depots. A serious handicap in the matter of regulating the supply according to the demand will thus be removed. For the ensuing year, as far as possible, only items for which there is a sure demand have been included. An elastic programme of collection and supply of the different species of timber in common demand has been arranged, so that the supply may be regulated according to the demand. Another feature of the ensuing year's programme is that the system of extraction of timber from the forests by the purchasers themselves, called the 'seigniorage system', is sought to be discouraged as far as possible, and replaced by the system of departmental collection and sale, as the former has been found to be more liable to abuses, and to lead to unhealthy competition with the department itself. There is no other note-worthy feature requiring special mention, and if any further explanation on any point is required by any Hon'ble Member, I shall be glad to furnish the same. With these words, I request that the House may be pleased to grant the demand in full.

Motions Nos. 7—10.

As the following motions were not moved they were considered withdrawn.

7. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,67,582 for Conservancy and Works by Re. 1.*

8. Mr. George Chakyamuri:—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,338 for Subordinate Executive Staff by Re. 1.*

9. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,540 for Forests by Re. 1.*

10. Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:—*To reduce the altotment of Rs. 2,22,540 for Forests by Re. 1.*

Motion No. 11.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,22,540 for Forests by Re. 1.*

To make the temporary staff of the Department permanent.

A similar resolution was moved here on three occasions and it was passed unanimously that the Tanadars and Watchers of the Forest Department should be given pension and privilege leave as the other officers of Government. They should be treated as human beings. That is what we want. Even the mahouts of the Forest Department are given leave and pension. These Tanadars and Watchers who have to work in the malarial and flooded areas are not given privilege leave or pension. That is the reason why I brought this motion.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was not this motion moved and passed in this House?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—It has been passed by the House.

Dr. A. R. Menon—Will the Government be pleased to say what they have done in the matter?.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—It has not been accepted by the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—It is very difficult to know why the Government have not accepted it. Government were very anxious to give provident fund, pension, super-pension, unheard of pension, unearned pension, imaginary pension, paper appointment, paper lien, etc., to people who are drawing Rs. 700, Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,500—now it is going even above Rs. 1,500. These poor people who are doing work in the malarial tracts for 25 to 30 years have to retire without pension. Can you not give them three or four rupees for quinine to keep their spleen in the proper condition? For that purpose itself it will require three or four rupees. The Government must give the reason why the resolution passed in this Council was not accepted by them. We have been told that if the majority of the Council is in favour of it, Government have to accept it. We would like to know from the Hon'ble Secretary if there is any reason why the Government did not accept this resolution moved and passed with an overwhelming majority in this House.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—The question raised in the cut motion has already come up for the consideration of the House in previous years. As was explained on those occasions the temporary staff of the Department is entertained by obtaining sanction every year according to the actual requirements of the year which are liable to vary. If the staff entertained in any year are made permanent the Government may find in their hands permanent employees who have no work in subsequent years. It is true that a certain number are entertained continuously from year to year and some work in the Department as permanent employees, for all practical purposes, without any of their advantages, and their cases are admittedly hard. But the principle involved presents a serious difficulty in giving them redress. If some way could be found out of this difficulty, I shall place their case before the Government for their consideration. The cut motion cannot under the circumstances be accepted.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This was submitted by you?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I shall place the matter for the consideration of the Government.

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Dr. A. R. Menon.—Now the difficulty is only in the principle of this appointment, that the appointment is to be renewed every year. You make it temporary by renewing it every year. Are there not men who have put in 25 years and 20 years?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—There are men who have put in even more than 20 and 25 years.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Then what is the difficulty of changing this rule?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—It is not possible to do it for the reason already stated.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—After 10 years' service he may be considered as a Government servant. What is the use of this argument when people are working and do not get anything by way of pension, etc.? Can you take them and appoint them as peons? You cannot, because there is the age-bar. Will the Government be pleased to consider this question again? Otherwise we will have to vote for the motion.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I shall place these facts before the Government for consideration.

President.—You can do something at least to those who have put in a minimum number of years' service.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴുത്തച്ഛൻ.—ഇതിനുമുമ്പു രണ്ടു പ്രാവശ്യം ഈ കട്ടമോഷൻ ഇവിടെ പാസാക്കീട്ട് ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവരികയോ, ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് അതിനു് എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ.—അങ്ങിനെയൊരു സർക്കുലർ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതായിട്ട് അറിവില്ല.

Mr P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Can we expect on behalf of the Government an expression of the view of the Government that this would be favourably considered?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I have answered that question. I cannot say anything more.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—ഈ സ്റ്റാൻറിംഗ് ആർഡറിനെ മാറേണ്ട ആവശ്യം വരുമ്പോൾ നോട്ടിഫൈ ചെയ്യുവാനും, ഇൻക്രിമെൻറ് ചെയ്യുവാനും ഈ പാവങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ—അവരിൽ ആരും ഹജൂരിലില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടായിരിയ്ക്കണം; ഇതുപോലെ പ്രധാനമായ കാര്യത്തിൽ—ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് വേണ്ടപോലെ ഒന്നും ചെയ്യാത്തതു്. കൂടാതെ ഇങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല. കൂട്ടുകളെ എങ്ങിനെ വേണമെങ്കിലും എടുത്തു മറിയ്ക്കാമെല്ലൊ. ഇതെയെല്ലാം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്ന ജീവനക്കാരോടു അവർ ദയവു കാണിയ്ക്കുന്നില്ല. ഈ കാര്യം ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്യേണ്ട വാദമായിരുന്നു. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ

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ഈ കാര്യത്തിലുള്ള നയത്തിന്റെ പ്രയോജനമെന്താണെന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—We want you to give these people pension just as you receive pension?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—The real difficulty is in one year 15 men may have to be appointed. In the second year 9 may be thrown out and 6 only remain. In the third year 12 may have to be appointed. So there is no fixity in the number of men that would be actually required. We find it difficult to retain a minimum number of men.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Can you not take a general average and then appoint persons who have got longer service?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—In their case a minimum number of yearsfor which pension would be granted can be fixed and pension granted.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—This matter was raised five years ago in this Council?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—They found it very difficult to fix the number.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I suppose there was no year in which none was required? The men who had served longer may be made permanent.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—The matter shall be placed before the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What was the least number during the last ten years?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I have not got the necessary information just now.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു കൊല്ലം ഇതെങ്കിലും ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. നാരായണമേനോൻ.—അതില്ല.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—What is the objection in taking 30 or 40 on the pension list if you want to give them any pension?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Can we have any assurance in the case of persons who have put in a minimum service of 10 years that their case will be considered? What we want to know is whether the Government are prepared to give any assurance in these lines. The complaint is not against the Departmental head. It is against the Government.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—I shall place the matter before the Government, as already stated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is it possible to have an assurance from the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—If the Government give an assurance should it not be carried out? That is the reason

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why I hesitated to give a positive reply. Not that we are not sympathetically inclined. Therefore, I could only say that the Government will sympathetically consider the recommendation.

Motion was, with leave, withdrawn.

Demand put and carried.

8 11—Tramway—Rs. 92,074

Mr. T. Narayana Menon.—Sir, I beg leave to move for a grant of Rs. 92,074 under Demand No. XI—"Tramway". The appellation of 'white elephant' that used to be given to the Tramway is, I take leave to submit, a misnomer, as far as I have been able to study the results of its working, if by the term was meant to indicate that it was a costly and unnecessary luxury, but might be correct, if it was only intended to signify something rare. I believe that I shall be able to convince any Hon'ble Member of this House by incontrovertible facts and figures that, if the working of the Tramway is taken as a whole, it has so far justified its existence by financial results, and there can be no apprehension of a possibility of its failure in the near future. According to the criterion laid down by Diwan Mr. (now Sir A. R.) Banerji, in order that the Tramway may be successful, the revenue derived by the sale of materials transported by it should cover the expenditure incurred on their collection, the cost of maintaining the Tramway, pay at least an interest of 2 per cent on the capital outlay, and then leave a surplus. That, I dare say, the House will admit is a safe, reasonable, business proposition. Figures are available to show that the working of the Tramway has been a success on the above standard, having left a surplus of Rs. 13·9 lakhs till the end of 1106 since its inception in 1081. With regard to the future, though it was feared some time back that there might be no timber for transport by the Tramway in Parambikulam forests after 1103, it has been possible to extract sufficient quantity from the old worked coupes to keep the Tramway going without loss so far, and without touching about 30,000 candies of superior species of timber which as Special Officer for Reconnoitering, I had marked for extraction during my reconnoitering survey in 1104. Within the limited period then at my disposal, I could only reconnoitre under 20 sq. miles out of a total of 300 sq. miles tappable by the Tramway or its possible extensions. In my humble opinion, all that is needed to give the Tramway a perpetual lease of life is to get a complete working plan prepared for the whole of the vast area, and lay down a proper programme of annual working. As long as there is valuable timber in the Parambikulam forests awaiting extraction, the maintenance of the Tramway is essential, simply because there is no other cheaper, or other feasible alternative method of transport available. The present problem, therefore, is not a lack of exploit-

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